

# 2012 Military Health System CONFERENCE



## What's Up with Autism? Envisioning, Developing and Implementing an Autism and the Military Child Conference

The MHS: Healthcare to Health

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# INTRODUCTION



- Autism and the Military Child Conference
  - Two (2) day training activity to:
    - Educate, empower, and advance the knowledge of military and civilian providers, educators, other professionals, special needs advocates, nurses, social workers, other professionals, military parents, caregivers, and those on the autism spectrum with accurate recognition, diagnosis/treatment of ASDs.
    - Empower military families and advocates with ASD resources.
  - Interdisciplinary military and civilian faculty

*Autism is reportedly one of the fastest growing developmental disabilities in the USA*

# METHODS



- Patient care/quality reviews
- Scientific medical advances
- Needs assessment
- Verbal survey
- Communication with local community agencies
- Increased referrals/transfer of EFMP families to Hampton Roads

Per Navy Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Headquarters, Hampton Roads is the largest catchment area for the Navy's EFMP program!

# RESULTS



- Diverse group of over 500 registrants
  - Updated information on evolving patient management and ASD treatment strategies
  - Enhanced awareness of ASD resources
- Highly rated evaluation
- Continuing education credits
- Autism and the Military Child went GREEN!
  - All conference information web-based
- Rotational autism conference proposal

# Conclusion



- Value-added benefit of multidisciplinary collaboration
  - physicians, other healthcare providers, clinicians, educators, therapists, family members and patients.
- Impact beyond Hampton Roads
- Transferability
- Universal applicability